



## Frederick Tanari

May 4, 1939 - March 25, 2021

Tanari, Fred, March 25, 2021 age 81 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Arlene "Topsy" for 53 years. Loving father of Mark & Samuel (Stephanie). Proud grandfather of Nicholas, Joshua and Sophia. Dear brother of Denise Spencer and Michael Tanari. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. Fred will leave behind many close friends. Fred worked for Display and Exhibit for many years before opening his own business Convention and Show services. Visitation Tuesday, March 30th 2-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Rd. W., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Wednesday, March 31st 10 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Hospitals for Children. To share a memory, please visit [vermeulenh.com](http://vermeulenh.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **30**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## In state

MAR **31**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
47650 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## Funeral Mass

MAR **31**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
47650 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Tribute Wall



“ *Frederick Tanari*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Lawrence J. Siwka lit a candle in memory of Frederick Tanari*



**Lawrence J. Siwka** - March 30, 2021 at 04:56 PM



*I met Fred through his brother Mike I work with him in the Display and Exhibit Co., one of my first jobs. Fred was a wonderful guy to work for... the Best! May Fred Tanari rest in peace he will be missed.*

**Lawrence J. Siwka** - March 30, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to the entire Tanari family. What an amazing life your Dad led, Sam! Hugs to you, Stephanie, Nick, Josh and Sophie.*

*Love, Matt, Tamara and Grant Lark*

**Tamara Lark** - March 30, 2021 at 01:00 PM

RB

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Tanari family. We new Fred as a hard working and caring business man who knew how to get things done. He will be missed. Fred and family will continue to be in our prayers.

Cindy Cattran and Rod Byrne

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**Rod Byrne** - March 29, 2021 at 01:09 PM

TT

“ My deepest condolences to Toppo, Mark, Sam and the entire Tanari family for the loss of your beloved Fred. I have had the pleasure of observing the life and times of Fred for over 25 years. Most important to Fred was his family whom he worked tirelessly to provide for. At Cobo Hall, Fred was an iconic person, larger than life. His word was his bond, his honesty and integrity were without question. A fair, kind, and generous man, Fred cared deeply about his clients and workers. His contributions in assisting the DADA in raising the Detroit Auto Show to the international acclaimed North American International Show are legendary. I had the pleasure of sharing a glass of wine and cigar a time or two with Fred. Few could tell a good story like Fred. His laugh was infectious. His handshake, with his huge hands, was firm and sincere. I believe, Fred was greeted at heaven's door with a warm embrace from his longtime friend and partner Sam Madden. Thank you, Fred, for the wise counsel that you provided me over the years. May you rest in peace knowing the legacy you leave behind in the values that guided your life are instilled in so many.

Tom Tuskey

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**Tom Tuskey** - March 29, 2021 at 12:58 PM

MF

“ My sincerest sympathy to Fred's family. Would like you to know that we shared one of our first jobs together working for Kinney Shoes. What fun Fred was!!! He was kind, gentle and dependable that many years ago. We were about 15, 16 or 17 yrs. old. Memories are sooo sweet of him. Cliff Kabacinski was our manager and Les Flaga our asst. Cliff is gone . Hope Les sees this notice in the news. We all started out together in the 50's.

*God bless you all and know that you were blessed to have one-of-a-kind wonderful men as a husband and father and grandpa, I'm sure.*

*Marilyn Doutt Fenn and husband, Gary Fenn*

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**Marilyn Doutt Fenn** - March 29, 2021 at 11:57 AM

TG

“ Our deepest condolences to Toppy, Mark, Sam and the entire Tanari family for the loss of Fred, a truly wonderful gentleman. We knew Fred as a neighbor for many years and as busy as he was, he always took time to share a funny story, a kind word, or to simply ask how the family was doing. Though we miss him dearly, we know he is now in heaven above watching over all of his loved ones.

*Tom and Nancy Gioia*

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**Thomas Gioia** - March 29, 2021 at 10:53 AM

DG

“ Writing this is emotional for me but I wanted to share some of my thoughts. I met Fred in the early 60's when we were co-workers at Display and Exhibit Company in Detroit. He worked in the Paint Dept and I was a Carpenter Apprentice. Big, strong, just a nice guy - you couldn't help but like him. As years passed, the company prospered and so did our friendship. We did some hunting and fishing and got together for an occasional lunch or beer. Years later, we both were busy with our respective companies. He pretty much ran Cobo Hall and I stayed in the display business so we still had a connection. As we grew older, I truly enjoyed talking with my long-time friend and reminiscing about the "old times". We always talked about getting together but unfortunately that didn't happen. When you grow and share life experiences with someone, growing older is not difficult. Fred and I had that sharing. He was on my mind so I texted him on March 16, wondering how he was and hoping all was well. He didn't respond then I heard the sad news of his passing. Fred was a very special friend. He loved life! I miss the times we shared but thankfully he lives on in my heart because he took the time to leave me with memories of one of the nicest human beings in my life. God bless you, my friend, rest in peace, I truly miss you.  
Dave Gentile

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**Dave/Susan Gentile** - March 29, 2021 at 10:14 AM

JL

“ Fred recognized very early on that for the auto show to be successful it had to be important to everyone on their own terms. The manufacturers, media, analysts, suppliers, consumers, sponsors, and the thousands of people who worked to build the show all found what they wanted and felt a sense of ownership in the show. Fred was a rock that we all needed and counted on. His faith, character, and his love of his family, the City, and the people always came through.

*My sympathies to his family and to his many, many friends.*

*John Love*

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**John Love** - March 29, 2021 at 09:09 AM

GN

“ Fred was one of a kind, the consummate gentleman. Fred had a way of making you feel special. The world was a better place with Fred in it. He will be sorely missed. Gregg Nathanson

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**Gregg Nathanson** - March 28, 2021 at 11:50 AM

AE

“ I am sad that I cannot accompany Fred on his last journey. So many unforgettable moments will always remind me of our time together - Fred was one of the most generous people I know - he was there when my mother died, he took care of the young soldier in frankfurt, and For sure he would not let you get hungry home - thanks for everything



*rest in peace, my thoughts are with his beloved ones*

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**andrea eberhardt** - March 27, 2021 at 01:10 PM

CS

*He's in my prayers*

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**Charles schoder** - March 28, 2021 at 10:26 AM

FG

“*Fred was an amazing host and though I was a kid in the group he treated me like a King. Rod brought Fred to see me in the hospital when I was paralyzed while he was in a wheelchair himself. In HIS own way he made it clear we would BOTH walk again. He was right. I loved and admired this man.*

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**frank guirlinger** - March 27, 2021 at 11:53 AM

JT

“*Fred will be truly missed by us all...We have been friends of Fred's for 68 years....We had so many great time together..I Met Fred in high school but Mike knew him a few years before me.He stood up in our wedding 62 years ago...He was a great generous to a fault, guy...We loved Fred and Topsy so much.....We pray for the family and Fred..You all have our sincere sympathy....*

*Jeannine and Mike Taormino*

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**JEANNINE M Taormino** - March 27, 2021 at 10:45 AM

MB

“*I had the good fortune of working with Fred a few years ago. The nickname of “Godfather of Cobo” certainly fit. Fred was larger than life and will certainly be missed*

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**Mike Bonadonna** - March 27, 2021 at 03:04 AM

SC

“ 9238 Yorkshire, Detroit, Mi.: August 1968 Fred and Topy became our landlord after we returned from our honeymoon. Fred never raised our rent for the 8 years we lived there. They were so good to us ..... such giving, kind and generous to-a-fault people.

We both moved on in our lives and lost touch until our lives crossed paths again in 1975, when Fred had a meeting with my boss, Dan Hayes, from DADA / Detroit Auto Show and Fred and his co. were hired to be the general contractor for the Detroit Auto Show which in 1989 became the North American Auto Show. In those years from 1975 thru to my retirement in 2010, I became aware of many acts of anonymous generosity by this man to people in need. Fred worked his butt off to achieve what he accomplished and my husband and I so admired him for that. I think he was grateful that God had blessed him with a wonderful wife, two great sons, grandchildren and many, many loyal friends. We wish we had told him what a difference he and Topy made in those first years of our married life. KkWhat an example of a life well lived! We are all God's children and when he calls us home, it's our time to return to Him.

I regret we are unable to attend the services for Fred due to my husband's recent surgeries. But we will be there in spirit and prayer, as well as making donations to St. Jude's and Shriner's in his honor.

God bless you Fred Tanari .... you were one in a million!

Fred, until we meet again.

Gene & Sue Chelsey

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sue chelsey - March 26, 2021 at 08:01 PM

BJ

“ Working with Mr. Tanari was a great experience. If I came to Cobo Hall with a ten foot exhibit or an IBM or Porsche .exhibit, he welcomed me and provided great service. I recall an evening when we broke away from the show floor and drove to Millers Grill for hamburgers. Fred Tanari is truly an icon in the Trade Show business and he will be missed. My condolences to the Tanari Family. God Bless him and may he Rest in Peace. Bill Joyce

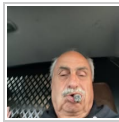
Bill Joyce - March 26, 2021 at 06:35 PM

PO

“ Pete Oresky sent a virtual gift in memory of Frederick Tanari



Pete Oresky - March 26, 2021 at 05:00 PM



It was a good guy always go to Union library mini negotiations with Fred he was always fear treated his labor brothers his friends he will be missed. Sorry Lost

Tony Michael - March 27, 2021 at 01:50 PM

CP

My condolences to the Tanari family. Fred and I were classmates at St. Ambrose. I always liked Fred. He will be remembered as "one of the nice guys". And as I read the tributes left by others, apparently Fred never changed; he continued to be a most charitable "nice guy". He will be missed by all who knew him.

Chuck Plets

Chuck Plets - March 27, 2021 at 11:12 PM